



Focus Schools and Districts 2015-2016

Entrance and Exit Criteria and Calculation Methods

Focus Schools

As defined by 703KAR 5:225

Focus School Entrance Criteria:

*Focus Schools can be identified by meeting one or more of the following criteria:

1) Schools that have a non-duplicated student gap group score in the bottom 10 percent of non-duplicated student gap group scores for all elementary, middle and high schools. (Student Subgroup/Gap Group-As defined in 703 KAR 5:225, student groups that include African-American, American Indian, Asian, White, Hispanic, English Language Learners, students in poverty on qualifications for free or reduced price lunch, or students with disabilities who have an Individualized Education Plan (IEP).

Focus Schools identified using the non-duplicated student gap group score method will be determined in the following manner:

- The non-duplicated student gap group will be ranked for all schools in the state. The schools in the lowest 10 percent of the non-duplicated student gap group scores by level will be called Focus Schools.
- Additionally, Title I schools will be added to the list as needed to ensure that the list includes at least 10 percent of all Title I schools.
- Non-duplicated student gap groups by school will have at least 10 students per group in order for the calculation to occur.

2) Schools with an individual student subgroup within assessment grades by level with a score in the third standard deviation below the state average for all students. Focus Schools identified using the third standard deviation method will be determined in the following manner:

- By level of elementary, middle and high, the state average of proficient and distinguished students in each subject area of reading, mathematics, science, social studies and writing will be computed, and a standard deviation by subject area for all students will be computed;
- There must be at least 25 students in a level in order for the calculation to occur, and an individual student subgroup by level and subject that falls below the third standard deviation cut score will identify the school as a Focus School.

3) High Schools that have a graduation rate that has been less than 60 percent for two consecutive years. Focus Schools identified using the graduation rate method will be determined in the following manner:

- The Cohort Graduation Rate provides an accurate graduation model that follows students from their first year in high school through their expected cohort graduation school year.
- 4-Year Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rate Targets



The “four-year adjusted cohort graduation rate” is defined as the number of students who graduate in four years with a regular high school diploma divided by the number of students who entered high school four years earlier adjusting for transfers in and out, émigrés and deceased students.

- **5-Year Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rate Targets**

The “five-year adjusted cohort graduation rate” is defined as the number of students who graduate in five years with a regular high school diploma divided by the number of students who entered high school five years earlier adjusting for transfers in and out, émigrés and deceased students.

Focus School Exit Criteria:

*Focus Schools can exit Focus status by meeting the following criteria:

1) A Focus School in the non-duplicated student gap group category shall:

- Be above the lowest 10 percent category
- Show improvement; and
- Meet AMO for two years in a row

2) A Focus School in the Third Standard Deviation category shall have the individual subgroup that triggered the school's placement in the category to:

- Rise above the third standard deviation cut score
- Show improvement; and
- Meet the AMO for two years in a row

3) A Focus School in the category due to graduation rate shall:

- Have a graduation rate higher than 70 percent; and
- Meet the AMO for two years in a row

Focus Districts

As defined by 703KAR 5:225

Focus District Entrance Criteria:

Focus Districts can be identified by meeting the following criteria:

Districts that have a non-duplicated student gap group score in the bottom 10 percent of non-duplicated student gap group scores for all districts.

Focus District Exit Criteria:

Focus Districts can exit Focus status by meeting the following criteria:

A Focus District in the non-duplicated student gap group category shall be above the lowest 10 percent category.



*Changes to Accountability Regulations (Assessments and Accountability Update 2015-2016)

Revised regulations 703KAR 5:200, 703KAR 5:225 and 703 KAR 5:240 define changes to the accountability system for 2015-2016 to be reflected in 2016 Fall reporting.

703KAR 5:225 (Recognition, Supports and Consequences)

- Annual Measurable Objective (AMO) is calculated from the total score of the Next Generation Learners component only.
- Graduation Rate is increased from 60 to 80.
- Focus Calculation will be based on two years of data except for new and reconfigured schools. Focus calculations for new and reconfigured schools shall use one year data.
- If a school has a Focus designation, it cannot be named a School of Distinction.
- The 3rd Standard Deviation model for a Focus School is replaced with a lowest 5% model in each individual gap group by subject. (The lowest 10% calculation on the Non-Duplicated Gap Group remains in effect.)
- Schools labeled as Priority Schools have an overall score in the bottom 5% of overall scores by level for all schools that have failed to meet the AMO for the last consecutive years.